HOW TO SEND ELECTRONIC LAB RESULTS TO THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A Quick Guide

Rashad Arcement, MSPH
Rashad.Arcement@la.gov

James Street
James.street2@la.gov

Overview

Thank you for your interest in sharing in sharing lab results with the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH). In order to submit your labs, you must:

1. Set up a secure, electronic system for transferring lab data to OPH
2. Send information in a standardized, OPH-approved format so that OPH's computer systems can interpret the data.

Each requirement is explained below.

1. How transfer your Lab Results To OPH

Facilities who wish to send lab information to OPH could download a copy of the free **PHINMS software system** from the US Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC). The program allows you to automatically (and securely) send your lab results to OPH. It is the preferred method of transmission to the state at this time. Facilities may also transmit electronically via sFTP or any method as long as it first gains approval from the STD/HIV Program. The following link provides information for an sFTP client, Tunnelier, that we have used in the past and would use if you do not have a preferable sFTP method. http://www.bitvise.com/ssh-client-download

There are three steps involved in setting up a PHINMS system.

Step i.
First, you'll need to a request a copy of PHINMS from the CDC by clicking the following link: http://www.cdc.gov/phin/tools/PHINms/installation.html

Step ii.
Second, you'll need to install the PHINMS system. The CDC's implementation guide can help you get the software setup.

Step iii.
Once you've installed the software, you'll need to configure PHINMS to send labs to OPH. Dawn Fama at the CDC can help you configure the program. You can reach her at bsa5@cdc.gov

2. How to Format Labs for OPH

OPH *only* accepts labs encoded in the HL7 v2.3 and HL7 v2.5.1 formats--or Excel spreadsheets that mimic the HL7 v2.3 or HL7 v2.5.1 formats. Information in an HL7 message *must* be placed in its proper designated position, as defined by the HL7 standard as specified below. If your facility's lab does not follow the standard specified below, OPH will not accept your lab results or participate in testing in order to meet your Meaningful Use (MU) reporting.

Technical Specifications:

-Lab results must be encoded in the HL7 2.3 or HL7 2.5.1 formats. Facilities may send information in an Excel spreadsheet, provided it mimics the HL7 layout specified below.

-Files containing lab data must have names that are shorter than 90 characters.

-Information must be placed in the proper location in the message, as defined by the HL7 standard, and specified below

***REQUIRED FIELDS IN BOLD**

MSH SEGMENT

Field	HL7 Segment ID	Max Length	Explanation
Field Separator	**1**	**1**	
Encoding Characters	**2**	**4**	
Reference Lab Name or sending lab name	4.1	50	
SendingFacility~UniversalID	4.2	50	
SendingFacilityUniversalIDType	4.3	50	
MessageDate	7	50	
Message Type	9	10	
MessageControlID	**10**	**50**	
ProcessingID	**11**	**50**	
ProcessingIDMode	11	50	
NTE	12	50	

OBR SEGMENT

Field	HL7 Segment ID	Max Length	Explanation
SetID	1	50	
Accession Number	3	50	ID number for the specimen
UniversalServiceIDIdentifier	4.1	50	
UniversalServiceIDText	4.2	50	
UniversalServiceIDCodingSystemName	4.3	50	
UniversalServiceIDAlternateIdentifier	4.4	50	
UniversalServiceIDAlternateText	4.5	50	
UniversalServiceIDAlternateCodingSystemName	4.6	50	
ObservationDateTime	7	50	
ObservationEndDateTime	8	50	
DangerCodeIdentifier	12.1	50	
DangerCodeText	12.2	50	
DangerCodeCodingSystemName	12.3	50	
RelevantClinicalInformation	13	50	
SpecimenReceivedDateTime	14	50	

Specimen Source	15	50
OrderingProviderID	16.1	50
Physician Last Name	16.2	50
Physician First Name	16.3	50
OrderingProviderMiddleName	16.4	50
OrderingProviderSuffix	16.5	50
OrderingProviderPrefix	16.6	50
OrderCallbackPhoneNumberUseCode	17	50
Physician area code	17	50
Physician Phone	17	50
OrderCallbackPhoneNumberExtension	17	50
OrderCallbackPhoneNumberAnyText	17	50
ResultsDateTime	22	50
DiagnosticID	24	50
ResultStatus	25	50
ReasonForStudyIdentifier	31.1	50
ReasonForStudyText	31.2	50
ReasonForStudyCodingSystemName	31.3	50

PID SEGMENT

Field	HL7 Segment ID	Max Length	Explanation
Medical Record Number			
SetID	1	50	
Patient Identifier List~ID Number	3.1	50	
Patient Last Name*	5	50	
Patient First Name*	5	50	
PatientNameMiddleName	5	50	
PatientNameSuffix	5	50	
PatientNamePrefix	5	50	
Patient DOB	7	50	
Patient Sex	8	50	
Patient Race	10	50	
Patient Address 1/Patient Address 2	11	50	
PatientAccountNumberID	18	50	
Patient Zip			
Patient City			
Patient State			
Patient Home Phone Number	13		Strongly encouraged, although OPH understands that all patients will not have phones

Patient SSN	19	50	
EthnicGroup	22	50	
Citizenship	26	50	

ORC SEGMENT

Field	HL7 Segment ID	Max Length	Explanation
OrderControl	1	50	
TransactionDateTime	9	51	
CallbackPhoneNumber	14	52	
Sending Facility/Hospital Name	21	57	
OrderingFacilityAddressStreet	22	54	
OrderingFacilityPhoneNumberUseCode	23	50	
Physician/Facility Address 1* and 2		50	
Physician/Facility City		50	
Physician/Facility State*		50	
Physician/Facility Zip*		50	
OrderControl	1	50	
TransactionDateTime	9	51	
CallbackPhoneNumber	14	52	
Sending Facility/Hospital Name	21	57	
OrderingFacilityAddressStreet	22	54	
OrderingFacilityPhoneNumberUseCode	23	50	
Physician/Facility Address 1* and 2		50	
Physician/Facility City		50	
Physician/Facility State*		50	

OBX SEGMENT

Field	**HL7 Segment ID**	**Max Length**	**Explanation**
SetID	1	50	
ValueType	2	2	
ObservationIdentifierIdentifier	3.1	50	
Test/Test Type (ex. Western Blot)	3.2	50	
L=local, LN=loinc, etc	3.3	50	
ObservationIdentifierAlternateIdentifier	3.4	50	
ObservationIdentifierAlternateText	3.5	50	
ObservationIdentifierAlternateCodingSystemName	3.6	50	
ObservationSubID	4	50	
Test Result	5		
Units of Test	6	50	
ReferenceRange	7	50	
AbnormalFlags	8	50	

Probability	9	50
ProducersIDText	15.2	50
ProducersIDIdentifier	15.1	50
Specimen Collection Date*	14	50
ObservationStatusResult	11	50
ProducersIDCodingSystemName	15.3	50
ProducersIDAlternateIdentifier	15.4	50
ProducersIDAlternateText	15.5	50
ProducersIDAlternateCodingSystemName	15.6	50
ObservationMethodIdentifier	17.1	50
ObservationMethodText	17.2	50
ObservationMethodCodingSystemName	17.3	50
ObservationMethodAlternateIdentifier	17.4	50
ObservationMethodAlternateText	17.5	50
ObservationMethodAlternateCodingSystemName	17.6	50